

THE REHEARSAL.

1. The Sense of the Primitive Church, the surest Interpreter of Scripture.
2. All Hereticks flie this Test. Dr. Coward accuses the Primitive Fathers of Ignorance in the Christian Doctrines.
3. He makes the Heathens, particularly the Egyptians, to have been the first Inventors of that Notion of the Immortality of the Soul.
4. He says they fell upon it by Mis-construing some Texts in the Books of Moses.
5. His Argument to Prove that the Generality of the Jews did not Believe it, because the Sadducees did not. There are Sadducees among Christians.
6. Our Saviour* proves it from Moses and the Prophets.
7. The Doctor's Argument has Quite overthrown his own Hypothesis.

SATURDAY, June 28. 1707.

(1.) Country-man. **Y**OU Nam'd in your Last, Master, these Opinions of Mr. Asgill and Dr. Coward as Ancient Heresies that were Condemn'd. And I should think this the surest way to know the Meaning of the Holy Scriptures. For where there is a Difference about the Sense of a Word or an Expression, as suppose of a Letter sent to me from London; what surer way could be found than if there were Present a Man of Truth and Honesty, who was at the Writing of the Letter, and had discours'd the matter by word of Mouth with my Correspondent, and Assur'd me he meant so and so, for that he had us'd the very same Words and Expressions to himself, and fully Explain'd his meaning in them? Now they who had learn'd the Faith from the Mouths of the Apostles themselves, must be best Acquainted with their Expressions, and Consequently the best Interpreters of their Words. This plain Natural Reason teaches any one. For can we suppose that those Christians did not know the Faith they had been Taught? Do not I know what I have been taught? Do not I know that I have been taught to believe the Immortality of the Soul? A man may as well tell me that I know not what I Think. This is as Plain as my ten Fingers. Therefore if it was the Current Opinion of the Christians that the Soul was Immortal, and that so Early as this Heretick Menander whom you Nam'd, who was Disciple to Simon Magus, of whom we have an Account in the Acts of the Apostles, there can be no Doubt but it was the Doctrine they had Receiv'd from the Apostles; And that they best Understood those Texts which speak of the Immortality of the Soul.

(2.) Rehearsal. There, as all other Hereticks, Hate and Despise Antiquity, because it Detects their Errors. Dr. Coward in his Second Thoughts, Runs down the Ancient Fathers, and Pities their Pious Ignorance. And being Tax'd with this, he makes his Apology in the Epistle Dedicatory of his Farther Thoughts, p. 20. where he says he meant only their Ignorance of the Christian Doctrines. For otherwise he Confesses they were evidently Learned.

Country-m. This mends the matter indeed! Evidently Learned, yet Ignorant of the Christian Doctrines! Were they then Converted to that of which they were Ignorant? No great Sign of their Learning! And were they so Zealous to Sacrifice their Lives and all that they had for what they had so Ignorantly Embrac'd? Their Pious Ignorance was then indeed to be Pitied! He had better have made them Ignorant of any thing else than of the Christian Doctrin. But he was in the Right! For it is Evident that either He or They were Ignorant of it.

(3.) Rehearsal. His meaning was to make the Primitive Fathers Great Philosophers, as many of them were. And thence to Infer that they brought this Notion of the Immortality of the Soul with them from their Heathen Philosophy, and so to have Corrupted Christianity with it. For he spends the xth. Chap. of his Second Thoughts to Prove that the Immortality of the Soul was an Heathenish Invention, and first brought into the World by them. And he says, p. 357. That it is very probable the EGYPTIANS were the first who Broached it. And he owns likewise, That they had it

it from the *Jews*, and from the *Writings* of *Moses*, of which he says, p. 356, they had the *Perusal*, that is, their *Priests*, who Endeavour'd to Pry into all the *Mysteries* of the *Jewish Religion*; and says it seems not to admit of any *Doubt*.

Country-m. Do's not this make Quite against him? For it shews that the *Egyptians* were not the *Inventors* or *Broachers* of this *Doctrin*, but that they had it from the *Jews*, and from the *Writings* of *Moses*. And how cou'd they have it from those *Writings*, if it was not there?

(4.) *Rehears*. He says, p. 357. They must do it by *Misconstruing* the *Books* of *Moses*, and *Mis-interpreting* the meaning of some *Texts* therein Contained.

Country-m. Then they *Mis-Constru'd* them as the *Jews* did, who always held the *Immortality* of the *Soul*, and the *Resurrection*, as they do to this Day. Which several *Jews* in *London* whom I know have told me. And, as I said before, it is not to be *Doubted* but that the *Egyptians* wou'd know from the *Jews* in what *Sense* they Understood such *Texts* of *Moses*; and that the *Jews* must know what they had *Learn'd* from their *Fathers* and from *Moses*.

(5.) *Rehears*. But he says, p. 359. thus, Now the *Generality* of the *Jews*, nay, I may say universally, were of *Opinion*, That *Man* wou'd *Die* and never *Live* again, especially the *SADDUCEES*, tho' some own'd both *Spirits* and *Angels*. *Act*. 23. v. 28.

Country-m. According to my Skill, he Quite *Mistakes* the *Matter*. For the *Sadducees* were but a *Self* among the *Jews*, and Exploded by the *Rest* for this very *Opinion*. And ther were *Christians* too of this *Opinion*, as *St. Paul* said to the *Church* of *Corinth*; *1 Cor*. xv. 12. How say some among you that ther is no *Resurrection* of the *Dead*? Against whom he *Disputes* through all that *Admirable Chapter*, which we hear often Read at the *Burial* of the *Dead*. And it seems ther were the like at *Ephesus*, for *St. Paul* says to *Timothy*, who was first *Bishop* of *Ephesus* (as is told at the End of his *Epistle*) and gives him *Warning* of those, Who concerning the *Truth* have *Erred*, saying, that the *Resurrection* is *Past* already; and overthrow the *Faith* of some. *ii. Tim*. ii. 18. And he says, ver. 17. Their *Word* will Eat as doth a *Canker*. And this is the very *Notion* of the *Quakers* among Us at this Day, who say, That the *Resurrection* is *Past* already, that is, That it means no more than the *Rising* up of the *Light* or *Truth* in the *Heart*, which whoever has *Attain'd*, has *Attain'd* the *Resurrection*. Thus ther are, and have been *Sadducees* among those call'd *Christians*, as well as among the *Jews*. And the *Doctor* might with as much *Justice* say, That the *Generality* of *Christians*,

and *Universally*, *Deny* the *Resurrection*, tho' Some do Own it, as he says it of the *Jews*.

(6.) But methinks our *Saviour's* *Silencing* the *Sadducees* from a *Text* out of *Exodus*; *Luk*. xx. 37. And referring Men to *Moses* and the *Prophets* for the *Knowledge* of the *State* after *Death*; *Luk*. xvi. 29, 31. shou'd have *Prevented* the *Rash Censure* of the *Doctor* in saying, That the *Egyptians* did *Misconstrue* the *Texts* of *Moses* in favour of the *Immortality* of the *Soul*, for our *Saviour* has *Justify'd* their *Interpretation*.

(7.) And we have *Gain'd* this by the *Doctor's* own *Argument*, That the *Egyptians*, the first of the *Heathens* (as he Allows) who had the *Notion* of the *Immortality* of the *Soul*, had it from the *Jews*, and from the *Scriptures* of *Moses*, and *Consequently* from *Revelation*, as you have shew'd before, *Num*. 205. And so the whole xth *Chapt.* of *Second Thoughts*, Intitul'd, *A brief History of Human Soul*, and *Consequently* the *Frame* and *Foundation* of the whole *Book*, Comes all at once to the *Ground*! And is *overthrown* by the same *Arguments* were made use of to *Support* it!

ADVERTISEMENT S.

THE *Wolf Stript* of his *Shepherds Cloathing*, in answer to a late *Celebrated Book* intitul'd *Moderation a Vertue*.

MEMOIRS of the *Affairs* of *Scotland*, containing a full and *Impartial Account* of the *Revolution* in that *Kingdom*, begun in 1567. Faithfully *Publisch'd* from an *Authentick M S.* By Her Majesty's *Historiographer* for the *Kingdom* of *Scotland*.

A Parallel between the *Faith* and *Doctrine* of the present *Quakers*, and that of the *Chief Hereticks* in all *Ages* of the *Church*. And also a Parallel between *Quakerism* and *Popery*.

AN Answer to some *Queries*, concerning *Schism*, *Toleration*, &c. In a *Letter* to a *Friend*.

Two *Sticks* made one, Or, The *Devil* upon *Dun*.

A *Collection* of papers concerning what hath been *Transacted* in the *Convocation*.

SACRIFICE the *Divine Service*, from the *Covenant of Grace*, to the *Consummation* of the *Mystery* of *Man's Redemption*. By *J. Scandret*, *Priest* of the *Church* of *England*. To which is prefix'd a *Letter* to the *Author*, from the *Reverend Mr. Charles Leslie*; *Chancellor* of the *Cathedral* of *Connor*, in the *Kingdom* of *Ireland*.

CASSANDRA (but I hope not) telling what will come of it, 2 parts, in answer to the *Occasional Letter*.

THE *Establishment* of the *Church*, the *Preservation* of the *State*.